

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced a \$574,898 grant to Sul Ross State University in Alpine for the promotion of post-baccalaureate opportunities for Hispanics.

The grant will fund the “Puertas Abiertas,” or Open Doors program to promote higher educational opportunities for Hispanics and other low-income students in the region through distance education and other graduate services.

“The remote regions of West Texas have so much to offer, but educational resources are often limited,” said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez. “This funding is going to help Sul Ross expand the great job it’s already doing of educating a broad range of students in fields like agriculture and business.”

Sul Ross State University is the sole source of higher education for a vast and remote region in West Texas. Because of the nature of the region, distance learning is an important component of a comprehensive educational program. This grant will:

- 1) expand existing degree programs through distance learning in four high-demand fields (Education, Agriculture, Business and English/Communications)

2)

update and expand distance education infrastructure

3)

provide faculty development in distance instructional techniques and technology

4)

develop a new Graduate Student Center to provide graduate support services

5)

provide direct support to students through fellowships

The program also includes a comprehensive evaluation component.

“This grant will allow us to allot funds for our graduate programs, including the development of web-based graduate programs. Additionally, we will be able to offer additional graduate fellowships utilizing the Department of Education’s PPOHA funds,” said Gregory M. Schwab, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. “The Sul Ross State University administration, faculty, staff and students all want to thank Representative Rodriguez for his

outstanding leadership on providing funding for the higher educational needs of residents for west Texas, especially those for whom social and economic barriers exist.”

Sul Ross State University, founded in 1917, is a public, regional comprehensive university in Alpine. It operates one branch campus and two satellite campuses to serve a rural, low-income population across 45,000 square miles in 18 counties. For more information about Sul Ross State University, visit www.sulross.edu.

The expansion of educational opportunities is important for the 23rd Congressional District. On Sept. 17, Congressman Rodriguez voted for the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, H.R. 3221. The bill expands access to an affordable college education to more students, creates more early education opportunities, and builds a world-class community college system.

#